

## OBITUARY NOTICES.

THE REV. R. BOOG WATSON, LL.D., a member of the Malacological Society since its formation in 1893, died on June 13th, 1910, in his eighty-seventh year.

Although not a contributor to the Society's "Proceedings" he was well known to all as the author of the classic *Report on the Scaphopoda and Gasteropoda collected by H.M.S. "Challenger" during the years 1873-6*. This work consisted of 746 quarto pages of text, illustrated with 50 plates, and at once proclaimed the author one of the most careful and accurate writers of his day. In the preparation of it he spent many months comparing his specimens with the valuable collections at the British Museum, and subsequently visited some of the museums in Norway, France, and Switzerland; in fact, he left nothing undone which would help towards the accuracy and completeness of his work. The result was that he left to us a model of carefulness and thoroughness which it were well if some writers had followed.

Although at times his descriptions may be considered too prolonged, perhaps, if a fault, it was on the right side, for what is more troublesome and annoying than brief and inadequate diagnoses? His other conchological work was chiefly in connection with the fauna of Madeira, where he resided for about ten years. He published nine papers dealing with this subject, and in one of them, the last he wrote, gave a most valuable list of all the known marine mollusca of the islands, together with descriptions of thirty-five new species (Journ. Linn. Soc., 1897, vol. xxvi, pp. 233-329, 2 pls.).

Highly cultured, a classical scholar, and a most amiable personality, the Rev. R. Boog Watson will be held in pleasant remembrance by all those who had the enjoyment of his acquaintance or friendship.

E. A. S.

At the meeting in November last the President referred in the following terms to the loss the Society had sustained through the death of one of its members.

"It is with deep regret that I have to announce the death of Professor Dr. OSCAR BOETTGER, which took place last September, in his sixty-seventh year. Professor Boettger was one of our most distinguished foreign members, and had been connected with the Malacological Society almost from the time of its foundation in 1893. The following year, in conjunction with another author, he contributed two papers on Chinese land shells, which were published in our 'Proceedings'. But long previous to this and afterwards he wrote many voluminous memoirs on various branches of mollusca, both fossil and recent. He gave us some of our earliest knowledge of the Tertiary mollusca of Borneo and Sumatra, and he wrote extensively on the Tertiary lacustrine shells of the Mayence Basin of Germany. He was besides one of the best authorities on fossil and recent *Clausilia*, and his great memoir *Clausilien-Studien*, published in 1877, still forms

a classic work in that branch of molluscan literature. He wrote also a large number of papers upon recent marine shells, but there is no doubt that his studies greatly favoured the non-marine mollusca, and on that group alone he built up a lasting reputation, and especially in connection with his researches on the family Clausiliidæ. It is only too true that this Society by the death of Professor Boettger has lost one of its most brilliant members."

He was the author of over three hundred papers, of which about one hundred and fifty treated upon recent shells and fifty upon fossil forms, altogether comprising about 3,500 pages of text, illustrated with many beautiful plates. The rest of his writings were almost exclusively upon Reptilia. What a loss to our science we have experienced through his death many of us in this country feel personally, since when in difficulty with regard to questions of determination beyond our own capabilities, Professor Boettger became our final referee, and our applications to him were invariably received with his proverbial courtesy and our difficulties solved.

E. A. S.

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